AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) An antisense compound comprising a modified oligonucleotide consisting of ~~13 to 30~~ about 13 to not more than 23 linked nucleosides targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a p38α mitogen-activated protein kinase, wherein said modified oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety or at least one modified nucleobase, wherein said modified oligonucleotide is complementary to at least an 8 contiguous nucleobase portion of nucleotides 1194 to 1277 of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein said modified oligonucleotide specifically hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the modified oligonucleotide does not comprise SEQ ID NO: 91, or 92.

35-41. (Canceled).

42. (Original) The antisense compound of claim 34 comprising a chimeric oligonucleotide.

43. (Previously Presented) The antisense compound of claim 34 which is a single-stranded or a double-stranded compound.

44-47. (Canceled).

48. (Original) The antisense compound of claim 34 comprising at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

49. (Original) The antisense compound of claim 48 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

50. (Original) The antisense compound of claim 34 comprising at least one modified sugar moiety.

51. (Previously Presented) The antisense compound of claim 50 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl moiety or a 4'- $(CH_2)_n$-O-2' bridge, wherein n is 1 or 2.

52. (Original) The antisense compound of claim 34 comprising at least one modified nucleobase.

53. (Original) The antisense compound of claim 52 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methyl cytosine.

54-57. (Canceled).

58. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antisense compound of claim 34, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

59-67. (Canceled).

68. (Previously Presented) The antisense compound of claim 34, wherein the modified oligonucleotide comprises:

a gap segment consisting of linked deoxynucleosides;

a 5' wing segment consisting of linked nucleosides;

a 3' wing segment consisting of linked nucleosides;

wherein the gap segment is positioned between the 5' wing segment and the 3' wing segment and wherein each nucleoside of each wing segment comprises a modified sugar.

69. (Previously Presented) The antisense compound of claim 68, wherein the modified oligonucleotide comprises:

a gap segment consisting of eight to ten linked deoxynucleosides;

a 5' wing segment consisting of five to six linked nucleosides;

a 3' wing segment consisting of five to six linked nucleosides;

wherein the gap segment is positioned between the 5' wing segment and the 3' wing segment, wherein each nucleoside of each wing segment comprises a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar, wherein each cytosine in said modified oligonucleotide is a 5-methylcytosine, and wherein each internucleoside linkage of said modified oligonucleotide is a phosphorothioate linkage.

70. (Previously Presented) The antisense compound of claim 69, wherein the modified oligonucleotide consists of 20 linked nucleosides.

71. (Withdrawn) A method for decreasing airway hyperresponsiveness or airway inflammation in an animal, comprising administering to said animal by inhalation an antisense compound of claim 34 in order to decrease airway hyperresponsiveness or airway inflammation in the animal.

72. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the antisense compound comprises a chimeric oligonucleotide.

73. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the antisense compound is a single-stranded or double-stranded compound.

74. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the antisense compound comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the antisense compound comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

77. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The method of claim 76, wherein the wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl moiety or a ~~4' (CH2)n-O-2' bridge~~ 4'-$(CH_2)_n$-O-2' bridge, wherein n is 1 or 2.

78. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the antisense compound comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

79. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 78, wherein modified nucleobase is a 5-methyl cytosine.

80. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein said antisense compound is administered intranasally, intrapulmonarily or intratracheally.

81. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein decreasing airway inflammation comprises modulating cytokine release into the airway of an animal.

82. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein decreasing airway inflammation comprises reducing airway mucus production in an animal.